

Hepatitis Chart

	Hepatitis A ¹	Hepatitis B ²	Hepatitis C ³	Hepatitis D ⁴	Hepatitis E ⁵
WHAT IS IT?	A virus causing inflammation of the liver, it does not lead to chronic disease.	A virus causing inflammation of the liver, it can cause liver cell damage leading to cirrhosis and cancer.	Most common bloodborne viral infection in the US; 60% to 70% develop chronic hepatitis; cirrhosis develops in 10% to 20% with chronic hepatitis C over 20-30 yrs; hepatocellular carcinoma (liver cancer) in 1% to 5%;	A virus causing inflammation of the liver, it only infects those with hepatitis B.	A virus causing inflammation of the liver, it is rare in the US and is not associated with a chronic state.
INCUBATION PERIOD	15 to 50 days. Average 30 days	4 to 25 weeks. Average 8 to 12 weeks	2 to 25 weeks, Avg 7-9wks.	4 to 26 weeks	Avg 40 days; Range 15-60 days
HOW IS IT SPREAD?	Fecal/oral route, through close person-to-person contact or ingestion of contaminated food and water.	Contact with infected blood, seminal fluid and vaginal secretions. Sex contact, contaminated needles, tattoo/body piercing and other sharp instruments. Infected mother to newborn, human bite.	Contact with infected blood, contaminated IV needles, razors, tattoo/body piercing, and other sharp instruments. Infected mother to newborn. Not easily transmitted through sex	Contact with infected blood, contaminated needles. Sexual contact with hepatitis D infected person.	Transmitted primarily by the fecal-oral route. Fecally contaminated drinking water is the most commonly documented vehicle of transmission. Person-to-person transmission is uncommon., nosocomial transmission presumably by person-to-person contact, has occurred. Virtually all cases in the US have been reported among travelers returning from high HEV -endemic areas.
SYMPTOMS	Abdominal pain, anorexia, dark urine, fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, jaundice.	May have no symptoms. Some people have mild flu-like symptoms, dark urine, light stools, jaundice, fatigue, fever.	Same as Hepatitis B	Same as Hepatitis B	Similar to those of other types of viral hepatitis and include abdominal pain anorexia, dark urine, fever, hepatomegaly, jaundice, malaise, nausea, and vomiting. Other less common symptoms include arthralgia, diarrhea, pruritus, and urticarial rash.
TREATMENT OF CHRONIC DISEASE	No chronic disease	Interferon effective in up to 45% of those treated	.A combination of alpha-interferon and ribavirin currently is the most effective	Interferon effective with varying success.	No chronic disease
VACCINE	Two doses to those over 2 years	Three doses to anyone	None	None	None

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WHO IS AT RISK?	Household or sexual contact with an infected person or living in an area with outbreak. Travelers to developing countries, homosexual and bisexual men, IV drug users.	Infant born to infected mother, those having sex with infected person or multiple partners, IV drug users, emergency responders, healthcare workers, homosexual and bisexual men, hemodialysis patients.	Persons who ever injected illegal drugs, including those who injected once or a few times many years ago; persons who had a blood transfusion or organ transplant before July 1992; or clotting factor concentrates before 1987; hemodialysis patients; children born to HCV-positive women; healthcare workers after needlesticks, sharps, or mucosal exposures to HCV-positive blood; persons with evidence of chronic liver disease.	IV drug users, homosexual and bisexual men, those who have sex with hepatitis D infected person	Most commonly recognized to occur in large outbreaks, also accounts for >50% of acute sporadic hepatitis in both children and adults in some high endemic areas. Risk factors for infection among persons with sporadic cases of hepatitis E have not been defined.
PREVENTION	Immune globulin, or vaccination. Wash hands after using toilet. Clean surfaces contaminated with feces such as infant changing tables.	Vaccination and safe sex, clean up infected blood with bleach and wear protective gloves. Avoid sharing razors and toothbrushes.	Safe sex. Clean up spilled blood with bleach. Wear gloves when touching blood. Avoid sharing razors or toothbrushes.	Hepatitis B vaccine to prevent infection. Safe sex.	Avoid drinking or using contaminated water. Avoiding drinking water (and beverages with ice) of unknown purity, uncooked shellfish, and uncooked fruits or vegetables that are not peeled or prepared by the traveler. IG prepared from plasma collected in non-HEV-endemic areas is not effective in preventing clinical disease during hepatitis E outbreaks and the efficacy of IG prepared from plasma collected in HEV-endemic areas is unclear.

^{1, 2, 4} Palmer, E. (1998). Hepatitis found in several forms. TDH Pulse Monitor. Austin, TX: Texas Department of Health;

³ CDC, (2001) Hepatitis C, Division of Viral Hepatitis, National Center for Infectious Diseases. [On-line] Available: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/c/index.htm>

⁵ CDC, (2001) Hepatitis E, Division of Viral Hepatitis, National Center for Infectious Diseases. [On-line] Available: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/e/index.htm>